

REMARKS

Claims 15-23 are pending in this application. Claims 1-14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 15-23 have been added.

The added claims are supported in the specification as originally filed. See, e.g., from page 77, line 14 to page 78, line 2, and from page 80, line 20 to page 81, line 5 (Claim 15), page 27, lines 18-20 (Claim 16), and from page 25, line 27 to page 26, line 17, page 30, lines 10-14, and from page 36, line 13 to page 37, line 7 (Claim 17). See also, e.g., from page 25, line 27 to page 26, line 17, and from page 36, line 13 to page 37, line 7 (Claim 18), Figs. 1 and 4, and page 77, lines 22-24 (Claim 19), page 21, lines 5-10 (Claim 20), and page 75, lines 22-24 and page 82, lines 7-10 (Claim 21).

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the pending claims.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Applicants have included as part of the art cited on Form PTO-1449, the art of record in the parent application. Pursuant to MPEP § 609, no new copies of such art are provided. However, if the Examiner would like a copy of any of the references cited on form PTO-1449, Applicants will gladly do so upon request.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. application:

| <u>APPLICATION NO.</u> | <u>FILING DATE</u> | <u>GROUP ART UNIT</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 09/443,308 | 11/19/99 | 2879 |

A copy of the cited Application is enclosed.

Listed U.S. Patent No. 6,626,719 issued from Application No. 08/781,206, which is of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/506,289. One copy of U.S. Patent 6,626,719 is enclosed.

Listed U.S. Patent No. 6,288,494 issued from U.S. Patent Application No. 09/513,842, which is of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/506,289. One copy of U.S. Patent 6,288,494 is enclosed.

Listed U.S. Patent No. 6,472,814 issued from U.S. Patent Application No. 09/191,342, which is of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/506,289. One copy of U.S. Patent 6,472,814 is enclosed.

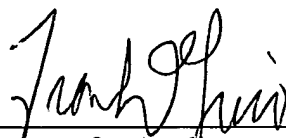
Listed U.S. Patent No. 6,184,610 issued from U.S. Patent Application No. 08/690,964, which is of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/506,289. One copy of U.S. Patent 6,184,610 is enclosed.

Listed U.S. Patent No. 6,246,168 issued from U.S. Patent Application No. 08/508,931, which is of record in parent U.S. Patent Application 09/506,289. One copy of U.S. Patent 6,246,168 is enclosed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph J. Scinto", written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 42,426

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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